



AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER

The Shark Angling Club of Great Britain

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation
Saturday 21st October 2017 – Portbyhan Hotel

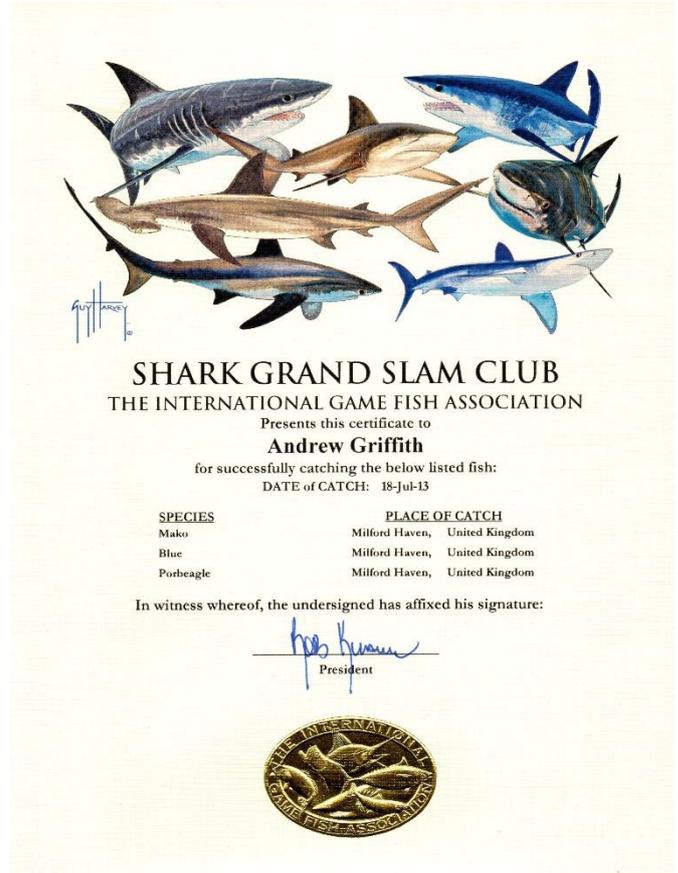
2018 Shark Festival
11th/12th/13th July 2018

2018 AGM
Thursday 12th July 2018

Chairman's Report

It's been a very exciting year so far and with a couple of months to go until the season ends we expect to see a lot more happening within the shark angling community. The best may be yet to come.....

Early on in the year Andy Griffiths shared his good news with us when he became a member of the exclusive IGFA Shark Grand Slam Club. To achieve this Andy caught and released a 190.4lb Shortfin Mako, a 190.4lb Porbeagle and a 120.4lb Blue, all in one day with skipper Andrew Allsop out of Milford Haven. The 18th July 2013 is a day neither of them will ever forget. This gave Andy not just a World record but many other "first achievements". You can read more about it in the article on our website, its well worth a read. Congratulations once again Andy.



This was followed by an equally impressive result from John Dines who caught and released a magnificent Blue, measuring 106" from nose to fork of tail with a girth of 44" whilst fishing with Chippy out of Penzance. We estimate the weight was 256.5lbs. An impressive fish by any measure and we were delighted to confirm this as a new British Measured and Released Record. Congratulations John, we are processing your line class claim so this one is not over yet.



I can also confirm that Dave Keens claims for British Measured and Released Line Class Record, for Blues on 8lb, 12lb and 16lb line class have been verified. Congratulations Dave.

On the 11th July, I had the pleasure of welcoming the competitors to the Annual Looe Festival at the draw night. With so much activity and good news within the sharking community their mood was one of excitement and expectation. The festival was a great success with 35 anglers and 9 boats taking part over the three days. A full report is given further on.

The launch of the British Measured and Released Record has been praised by many and without doubt is seen as a great platform to allow anglers and skippers to compete but perhaps more importantly to compete in a way which puts shark conservation as our highest priority.

Last year we reported our desire to broaden the scope of the club as over the years it has become increasingly Looe centric. When the club was formed in 1953 its intention was to, "promote the sport of shark angling in Great Britain". At its height the club

had circa 1100 members, a good number of which were resident outside the UK. The club has a very rich history and is proud to own some of the most prestigious trophies within the sport.

This remains a key objective of the club which is now underpinned by a committee who have accepted the challenge of increasing member engagement and membership value so I am confident we can reposition the club for the benefit of all the sharking community across the UK and even beyond our shores.

During the last three months Helen Davis has been training up our new secretary, John McMaster. On behalf of the club I would like to thank Helen for all her hard work and support. Combining a full-time day job with the clubs secretarial work takes a lot of commitment but her passion for the sport and the club was what gave her the energy to not only take over the running of the club administration but also to refine the processes and modernise many of the administrative systems.

As she starts to hand over the final bits n pieces to John I know you will join me in thanking her for all she has given the club and also welcome John into the team.

There is still a good portion of the season left so we hope to receive many more trophy claims from all over the country and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Dinner and Presentation evening on the 21st October

Bob Woodman - Chairman

Festival 2017 Report

The event seen through the eyes of someone who 50 years ago and 500 miles from Looe read about sharking in the angling press and dreamed of being part of it.....

The event started in time honoured fashion with lots of catching up, reliving old times, debates and discussions, lots of laughter, merriment and shaking of hands and then it all went quiet as the competitors strained to hear Bob announce the draw someone had forgotten to arrange for the PA system! Bob soldiered on and soon the draw was complete. The only decision now was whether to risk another pint or get to bed to conserve energy for the next day. What's that saying, "no names, no pack drill" all I can say is that every angler made it to their boats the next morning so the decisions were all good!

As day one dawned Looe woke up to see competitors walking from East Looe to West Looe and vice versa as they met up with their respective boats and heaved their gear aboard. Watching from the quay you could feel the excitement and anticipation. Then one by one the 9 boats and 35 anglers rounded the banjo pier and it was all quiet again.

As the tide returned to fill the harbour it was followed by the boats and all at once the quay was filled with anglers watched by bemused holiday makers and day trippers as they transferred their gear to their next boat. The result was 24 sharks caught and released, a good start to the festival. With Neptune

having looked upon the anglers favourably, their spirits were high and all looked forward to day two.

In the morning of day two the mist was hanging low and from above the harbour it looked like Looe was bathed in cotton wool. The subject on the quay today was the forecast, "not much wind and when the mist lifts it will be warm", was the general consensus of opinion. The relaxed attitude of yesterday had moved to one of competition, friendly but focused. Day one had set some battle lines and all were keenly evaluating their tactics and trying to find out what worked yesterday, followed by the question, but would that work today? As the boats returned, stories of sitting in their own pool of rubby dubby were told by all. Circular drifts back to the starting point had been the order of the day. Despite that our team managed to catch and safely release 15 sharks. A good result for such poor conditions.

As day three dawned some were daring to think they had done enough to win while others were repeating the mantra of the competitor, "its not over yet".

A range of emotions we are all familiar with could be seen and felt as they boarded their boats for the last time this festival.

Tim McPherson, editor of Saltwater Boat Angling joined the Swallow II to get his first lesson in shark fishing. I tell him its better conditions today and explain the flag system. He is impressed by its simplicity and the anglers commitment to this piece of sharking culture. All too soon the boats

return and we strain like excited children to count the flags..... 24 flags, so today, just as we had predicted, has been better than yesterday

The earlier mood of focus and concentration now melts away. The pressure is off, nothing more can be done. Those that are unable to stay for the prize giving say their goodbyes making promises to meet again soon. The others head off for a shower before heading for the prize giving. Thirty five anglers all from different parts of the country with different professions and experiences but all with one thing in common their love for the sport, and their commitment to the SACGB policy of catch and release, to support the conservation of the fish they seek and respect ... The Shark

Festival 2017 Results

The prize for the largest shark was shared between Terry Field and Bob Woodman with sharks of 118 points. They each won £200 cash, a trophy and £75 of Rok Max vouchers.



With joint winners there was no runner up so third place went to John Lock with a shark of 115 points. John won

£75 cash, a trophy and £25 of Rok Max vouchers.



The final prize for the angler who caught the most sharks went to Jake Jackson with a total of 5 sharks over the three days. Jake won £75 cash, a trophy and £25 worth of Rok Max vouchers.



Once again the Rok Max vouchers were very generously donated by the Portbyhan Hotel and presented by the manager, Matthew Robinson.

The optional daily pool continued to be popular with the competitors with day one being won by Bob Woodman (£330), day two being won by John Lock (£320) and day three being won by Terry Field (£330)

Finally the skipper prize of £25 for the largest shark was shared between Andre Theoret (Top Cat) and Murray

Collings (Swallow II) with fish of 118 points.



Dave Bond (Mystique II) took the skippers prize for the most sharks with an impressive 12 over the three days and won £25.

The club has received great feedback for this years festival and as we write we already have confirmed and paid deposits for 6 anglers, 2 of which will be new to the festival.

The year is far from over though and the competition continues for the other SACGB trophies. With around 50 trophies to go for there is still a lot of work to do, so clean up that gear, check your traces and get back out there.

Thanks for a tremendous three days.

MEMBERSHIP SUBS

A reminder, that if you have not yet paid your Membership subs, these need to be paid ASAP. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, you can do so using the following account details.

Lloyds Bank

Acct Name: Shark Angling Club of Great Britain

Sort code: 30-95-08

Acc No. 00692083

Please remember to enter your FULL name as a reference, so that we can correctly identify and allocate your payment.

Alternatively, you can send a cheque made payable to 'Shark Angling Club of Great Britain', or you can now renew your membership online at our website. www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk, where you can pay via paypal. Please note there is a £1.00 fee for using paypal, to cover our transaction fees.

If you have paid and not yet received your new membership card please contact the secretary at sharkclublooe@gmail.com

CLOTHING & MERCHANDISE

We now have polo shirts and sweatshirts with the SACGB logo for sale! These are available at a price of £15.00 + Postage for Polo Shirts, and £20.00 + Postage for Sweatshirts. They are a high quality poly-cotton mix and are currently available in White, Navy or Black. The Full member's logo is embroidered in red, and the Associate member's logo is embroidered in blue.

We also have Burgees available at a price of £25.00 + Postage. You can order online and pay

via paypal on our website at :

www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk.

Alternatively, If you would like to place an email order, please email us at:

sharkclublooe@gmail.com.

Rule Book Development

As most of you will know the club tabled some rules amendments this year. At the AGM these were approved but during the consultation process it was noted by one of our members that the structure of the rule book isn't what it might or should be. We lack some definitions and the flow of the document is fragmented. This is not surprising as we should remember some of the rules are more or less the same, if not exactly the same, as they were when the club was formed in 1953. We have done very well to only now have to invest some time in the document. We are aiming to have the draft version available for approval before the end of the year.

Associate Membership

We all aspire to achieve the level of Member of the club but that can often take longer than expected, especially if you don't have the opportunity to go sharking as often as you would like. This year I have spoken to a number of aspiring members when out sharking and I was amazed to find that most did not know there was an opportunity to join the club other than to catch and release a qualifier.

This is a great shame as once you catch and release a shark of any size you can of course become an Associate Member. Although you don't have any voting rights you can compete for trophies provided the

shark entered is of qualifying size and you join as a full member. You can also get involved with the sharking community through our Facebook page, via email and our website. As an Associate Member, you receive all the SACGB communications, including two electronic newsletters per year and of course are very welcome to attend the Trophy night and the Festival presentation.

So, we are asking for your help to encourage Associate Membership and spread the word that all who have caught and safely released a shark are welcome to join the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain. The more members we have, whether they are full members or associate members the stronger the club will be.

Committee Work

The committee have identified the following three projects as the initial work flow to increase member engagement and membership value. These projects will form a significant part of the committee's workload and attention in the coming months.

1. Members need to be able to forward suggestions and views direct to the committee so a member's portal on the website or similar will be investigated
2. The website contact page needs to cover the UK so members can identify suitable shark skippers all over the UK

3. In line with our commitment to catch and release we will produce a best practise document for handling and releasing sharks for anglers and skippers

This is not the only work that the committee will be addressing but it's important we do a smaller number of things well, rather than a larger number of things not so well. The foundations we build today are what will allow the club to go on to become bigger and better for our current members and also provide better support for tomorrows anglers

2018 Festival Entrance Fee Payment Options

Soon after this years festival a member approached the club with a suggestion. The suggestion was that some members would prefer to pay for the festival in monthly instalments. Although this increases the clubs administration the benefits here are potentially twofold.

Firstly, members may find it easier to budget for the festival by paying in regular smaller amounts.

Secondly this has the potential to sign up members for the festival quicker than normal and allows the club to pre-book skippers much earlier than we have been able to do previously.

It didn't take the committee long to approve the suggestion and we hope we will get a quicker festival take up than

normal. Having said that we already have a number of members who have paid their deposits so our advice is not to leave it too long to book your place by joining one of the payment options

To secure your place in next years festival you now have two options.

Option one is a £100 deposit before end of September 2017 with the balance of £275 being paid before 31st March 2018

Option two is an initial deposit of £75 before end of September followed by 6 monthly payments of £50 (see below)

To sign up please visit the website, download, complete and return the 2018 festival application form to the SACGB.

If you have any questions, email the secretary at sharkclublooe@gmail.com

Monthly Plan (option two)

Month	Payment
September	£75
October	£50
November	£50
December	£50
January	£50
February	£50
March	£50

We want to welcome you back

During the last couple of months we have been fortunate to have received feedback from a number of ex-members of the club. Many of them discontinued their membership as they felt the value they received did not justify the membership fee and that the club was too Looe centric. We understand this and in conjunction with launching three projects targeted at changing the direction of the club we are making an offer to our previous members to re-join.

The current cost of re-joining the club is £20 re-joining fee plus £20 current years subscription, making it a total cost of £40.

Between now and the 31st December 2017 we will remove the re-joining fee so the cost for a returning will be just £20. To take advantage of this please forward an email to the secretary quoting your most recent membership number and the year you left the club. Details of how to re-join will then be provided

We sincerely hope that these initial projects and the reduced returning membership offer will demonstrate our commitment to developing the club to enable us to move forward and work in a collaborative manner to reposition it to a place where the entire sharking community can come together.

Membership Records

Over time the accuracy of all databases deteriorate, indeed large companies spend considerable amounts of money doing continuous cleansing work to maintain data accuracy. It is some time since the club did an audit of their membership records but the time has come to take on this project. This work is planned to start late Autumn. We will update you on how we intend to do that nearer the time.

British Measured & Released Record

It's a very exciting time within the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain committee just now as we have just confirmed John Dines new Blue Shark record with a fish of 150". This is calculated by adding the girth measurement to the distance from the nose to the fork of the tail.

We have also confirmed 3 new line class records for blues caught on 8lb, 12lb and 16lb breaking strain line by David Keen.

There are 68 record slots in the new measured and released record matrix and so far, only four are filled with one more being reviewed.

That's a lot of opportunity ladies and gentlemen.....

With there being no way to claim a British Record other than to kill the fish we have all got out of the habit of thinking about records.

The introduction of this new record provides a challenge platform for anglers which has its roots firmly based on shark

conservation so we need to start thinking about making record claims again.

As a shark angling community we must never again find ourselves in a position where we are unable to formally recognise magnificent fish like the 368 lbs Thresher caught by Nick Lane and the 242 lbs Blue caught by Danny Fitch last year and the very many others which we were never made aware of as anglers did the responsible thing and returned the fish.

The claim documents for the British Measured and Released Record are available now on our website.
www.sharkanglingclubofgreatbritain.org.uk

With shark catches and the number of specimen fish increasing we hope to hear from many of you soon so we can get busy filling up this new record matrix then of course working to beat it.

Other Stuff.....

- New Membership, Trophy Claim and British Measured and Released Record Claim forms are now available on the website
- We would like your help to populate our forthcoming UK skipper contact page on our website. You are the best judge of good skipper. Let us know who they are by emailing the secretary at, sharkclublooe@gmail.com
- The club are committed to increasing the level of communication between its

members and the shark angling community in general. Please help us do that by emailing the secretary at sharkclublooe@gmail.com with details (and with pictures if possible) of notable fish and all other interesting angling tales

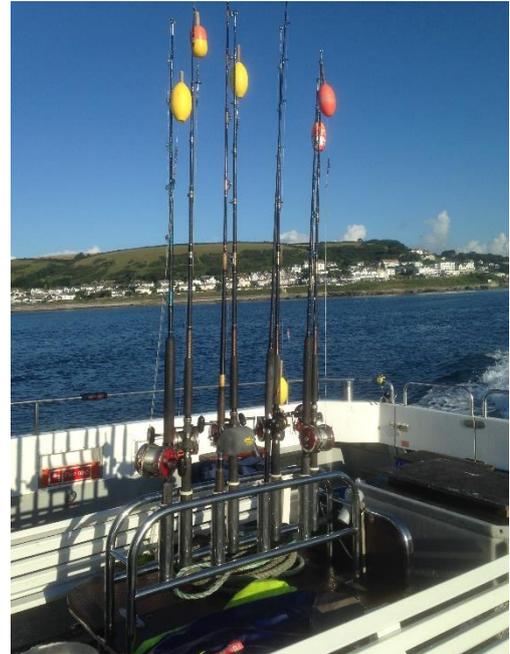
- Winners Patches – at this years AGM a member suggested that a WINNER patch should be made available to festival winners to be sewn underneath the year badge when they were a winner. The design for this patch has reached the approval stage so more about this very soon
- Measuring a fish – with the “currency” of a record claim being in inches rather than pounds it’s more important than ever before that a measuring tape that’s clearly visible is used. This also enhances photographic evidence. The SACGB have sourced a suitable measuring tape and are just in the process of finalising pricing so we will get back to you on this shortly.
- Pete Davis, “Sharky Pete” or “The Commodore”, however you know him will soon be a guest on CVFM (gone fishing) radio (104.5) talking about our new British Measured & Released Record system. The programme is hosted by Sam Harris MBE and will be broadcast live on Saturday 19th August around 8.30am.

- The ticket price for the Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation, held at the Portbyan Hotel in Looe on the 21st October is the same as last year, £25 per head.

This event is open to all, members, associate members and guest whether they be anglers or not. We are taking bookings now and already have a good number so don't leave it too late to book your place at the event

Contact the secretary to reserve your place by emailing your requirements to,

sharkclublooe@gmail.com



Contact Details

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